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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 21 | Humidity 84% Scattered thunderstorms Sensex 55,669 | Nifty 16,677 | Gold 50,541 | Silver 61,570 | Dollar 76.29 | Euro 80.30 | GBP 95.12

IISc model suggests 200 optimal charging points for EVs based on citizens' choices, resource constraints and grid impact

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

1,000 potential EV buyers, 5,000 households surveyed

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A data-driven analysis of various travel-related parameters, people's choices of locations and grid-related aspects can guide government agencies to plan electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the city, according to research.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a graphical user interface (GUI) tool to optimally plan these locations in Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR). As per the analysis, amongst the 2,030 possible locations in the city that came up, 200 are optimal.

Kengeri bus terminal, ISKCON temple, Gopalan Arcade mall, BESCOM's JP Nagar office, Jayanagar Metro station, NIMHANS, Orion mall, Majestic railway station, Mantri Square mall, Garuda mall and MG Road Metro station are some of the suitable locations thrown up by the model.

"We conducted a behavioural and travel survey of 1,000 potential EV buyers and 5,000 households in BMR to develop the tool. The tool generated an optimum solution that includes the exact location of the proposed charging points and their geocodes. We have mapped all the potential locations where possible charging stations can be set up in the city. While we deduced as many as 2,030 possible locations, the optimisation model filtered out 200 optimum locations on GUI," said Dr Ashish Verma of the Sustainable Transportation Lab at IISc.

The tool has been developed under the IISc's Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) programme, which is a joint initiative between India and the UK to pilot air quality improvement initiatives in Bengaluru. The programme also focuses on supporting the government of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> **"Outputs from behavioural and travel surveys were fed as inputs to the optimisation model, which then churned out the list of optimal locations.**
> — Dr Ashish Verma, IISc

A hotel for bees

Participatory research to gather spatially spread-out data on solitary bees in Bengaluru, create awareness

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a unique initiative, researchers at ATREE are setting up bee hotels at Bengaluru homes. The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) is involving citizens to create awareness and conduct research on bee diversity in the urban scape.

It's a three-year-long citizen-driven pilot study on solitary bees in the urban setting where citizens will be given bee hotels to be installed in their premises as they will participate in collecting data for the research.

Bee hotels are artificially-made nesting spaces for solitary bees, made of wood and bamboo.

The study is funded by the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum.

"The pandemic brought to the fore the city's dependence on rural areas for food resources. For cities to be truly independent, there is a need to fuel urban agriculture. We need to look at repairing the entire urban ecosystem. It is essential to evaluate the state of pollinators in the city," said Dr M Soubadra Devy, senior fellow, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation at ATREE.

The team of researchers at ATREE, Pollinators in Urban Systems and Health, has decided to conduct studies to better understand the primary pollinators for agricultural and wild plants.

The researchers have chosen the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 The mother tongue

Ranga Shankara presents 'Emotions and Mother Tongue' by Praveen Alva. The one-hour set will involve and engage the audience with folk melodies sung in contemporary sensibilities and arrangements. Born and brought up in Mangalore, Praveen Alva was surrounded by the rich culture of the land. Being creatively inclined from a young age, he has been involved in theatre groups during his academic years and has written and performed plays and street plays in Kannada, Hindi and Tulu. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: May 8, 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm Entry: Free, 080 2649 3982**

02 Books and beyond

Check out a book talk on 'Gaban' (embezzlement) a Hindi novel by Munshi Premchand, published by Saraswati Press in 1931. Through this novel, he tries to show "the falling moral values among lower middle class Indian youth in the era of British India", and to what heights a person can get to, to reach the world of elite class, and maintain the false image as a rich person. It is considered Premchand's best work, after Godaan. Gaban was adapted into a 1966 Hindi film with the same name by Hrishikesh Mukherjee.
Where: Urban Solace, 32, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road; When: May 8, 11.30 am to 1 pm Entry: Free, 9845013055, 9945022177

03 Mothers' Day special

Elements Mall has come up with a contest to celebrate Mothers' Day. Give a missed call to 88843433388. You then have to fill in the form and say "why you think your mom is wow" and win a treat voucher. The finale will pick out the winner and three best responses will get gift vouchers and gift hampers.
Where: Elements Mall, Thanisandra Main Road, Nagavara; Date: Till May 7, Grand Finale: May 8, 11 am – 8 pm; Info: www.elementsmall.com

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Freedom from unemployment
At Freedom Park on Wednesday, members of the Aam Aadmi Party held a protest demanding locking up of Udyoga Soudha, the headquarters of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), for failing to provide jobs to the youth of the state

The bling is back!

Gold bars, coins with imprints of Puneeth Rajkumar and KGF are selling like hot cakes; citizens cannot get enough after a long hiatus

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KAUSHIK JN

On the eve of Akshaya Tritiya, Bengalureans flocked to jewellery shops to invest in gold jewellery, coins and bars

Uncertain times call for planning ahead. In the last two years, covid proved that the adage saving for a rainy day is indeed a valuable one. The latest trend doing the rounds is that of the bullion – bars and coins are everyone's favourite choice of investment.

Interestingly, in Bengaluru, coins sold with imprints of Puneeth Rajkumar and KGF movies are hot favourites, and Akshaya Tritiya saw people flocking to jewellery stores after a long hiatus.

Jewellers said that Akshaya Tritiya was a relief for the market. According to tradition, it is believed that Akshaya Tritiya is an auspicious occasion and people are known to buy jewellery as a sign of reigning in prosperity.

However, there was hardly any business in 2020 due to the lockdown and covid restrictions. The situation was no better in 2021 when the second wave had already hit the country with many shops being shut indefinitely.

Now, jewellers can heave a sigh of relief. Karnataka State Jewellery Traders and Workers Associations' Federation General Secretary B Ramachari said, "For long, we have been selling gold coins with goddess Lakshmi imprinted on it.

"However, the latest trend seems to be the gold coins with imprints of Puneeth Rajkumar and KGF. Most of the jewellery shops in the old Mysuru region are getting a huge demand for these coins."

> **"Many want to invest in gold as they believe that gold rates may go up in the future**
> – C Krishnachari, a jeweller

According to him, these gold coins are either five or 10 gram in gold in weight. Many shop owners told him that the demand for Puneeth coins has gone up by 15 per cent and KGF by 10 per cent. "So, we have asked our designers to etch Puneeth's face and KGF picture or Yash's face designs to cater to the needs of the customers."

C Krishnachari, another jeweller said that currently, real estate and gold were constantly fetching good results. Many want to invest their money in gold as they believe that the rates may go up in the future. However, buying jewellery may not sound feasible for the people who are seeking investment via gold. Hence, they were buying bars which are 24 carats so that it could be sold easily in the future.

Ramachari agreed that there was a clear shift from buying traditional jewellery to investing in gold in the form of bars and coins. One of the reasons could be uncertainty, he pointed out.

Many do not know what the gold rate could be in the next six months or six years. So, instead of making jewellery which could become an old design, they prefer to get gold bars so that they can sell it when required.

"Many of our clients are those who want to buy jewellery for wedding or auspicious functions." He also said that the Akshaya Tritiya sale had seen a 20 per cent rise this year compared to the pre-Covid years.

Jewellers also expect that there will be price fluctuation. Meanwhile, many jewellers also said that there was a growing demand for male jewellery as well and many men were visiting the shops to buy chains, bracelets or even rings.

Cheers: It's a tipsy free-for-all

Couple of bar fights — Waiter gets beaten up for intervening in brawl; loud talk ends up in fight

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A 42-year-old waiter, who intervened in a brawl at a pub, suffered injuries after being assaulted by an inebriated customer. The incident happened at Nartaki Bar and Restaurant on Residency Road on Sunday midnight.

The police said that one of the customers had blown cigarette smoke on the face of another customer, triggering the brawl. The Ashoknagar police have registered an FIR on one Harish and his friends under IPC sections 323 and 324 - assault using dangerous weapons and 506 - criminal intimidation and are on the lookout for the absconding accused.

Swamy, a native of KR Pete in Mandya, has been working as a waiter at the pub for a few years. He told the police that he was on duty when he observed one of the customers was waiting outside the washroom, smoking a cigarette, while a man from another table from another group had gone into the washroom. Soon after the man came out of the toilet, the one who was waiting outside, blew cigarette smoke on his face.

The man objected to the smoker who returned to his table and a heated argument ensued between the two and subsequently the two group members got involved.

Swamy went in support of his customers while the other person picked up a beer bottle and a mug and thrashed Swamy's head and face with them. Swamy sustained deep wounds

to his forehead and head. Later, the fight escalated between the two groups and the manager had to call the police. Soon after the cops arrived, the manager handed over the CCTV footage to the cops who identified the culprits in the bar brawl. They sought a complaint from Swamy, based on which the accused Harish and others were booked for assault.

In a similar incident at another bar in Bagalgunte, talking loudly in the bar caused two groups to clash with each other after the bar staff escorted the quarrelling group outside the bar.Though the incident happened at the SLN Bar on Tumkur Road last Saturday, the cops managed to pick up the accused in custody only a couple of days ago.

Govindaraju, in his complaint to the Bagalgunte police, stated that he had gone to SLN Bar and Restaurant on Tumkur Road along with his friend Srinivas for having beer. He observed that there was another group of men sitting at a nearby table who were very loud with their conversations.

When Govindaraju told them to keep their volume low, the men only increased their voices. When he complained to the bar staff, they intervened and asked the men on the table to keep their volume up. They abused the bar staff and told them that they were leaving and went outside the bar.

When Govindaraju and his friend finished their drink and came out, the trio who was later identified by the police as Manu, Manja, and Vishwa confronted Govindaraju and started abusing him verbally. Verbal altercation escalated into physical assault and Govindaraju and Srinivas were thrashed mercilessly by the trio who with a stone hit Govindaraju on his head and then fled the spot.

The victim and his friend then approached the cops and filed a complaint and based on the CCTV evidence, the cops registered a case and arrested the accused.

Liquor store burgled

Burglars broke into a Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) Liquor outlet in Kammanahalli and made away with not only liquor bottles, but also cash and Digital Video Recorder (DVR) of the CCTV surveillance system in the bar. The burglars would have decided to take a day's off partying on Labour's Day on May 1 after robbing the liquor store, the police suspect as they had broken into the store on the intervening night on April 30 and May 1 between 10 pm and 10 am along with two 100 Pipers bottles and two Black and White bottles.

The accused had not touched anything except cash of Rs 1,500 from the cash box and the DVR box. The rest of the liquor bottles were untouched and they had ransacked the entire store searching for the secret cash locker which had around Rs 21,000 that was locked in it, store vendor Pavan Kumar R told Bangalore Mirror.

Kumar, who runs the MSIL shop in Aravind Nagar in Kammanahalli, said that the burglars had cut open the lock and gained access by lifting the shutters and they had turned the CCTV cameras away from focus. They had also cut the wires.

When Kumar came to open the store the next morning and switched on the power supply, there was a short circuit, Kumar added. He then approached the Banaswadi police and filed a complaint based on which the cops have registered a case of burglary and are on the lookout for the culprits.

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Level up for PHCs

Health dept's focus is on upgrading 250 PHCs into Community Health Centres

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The health and family welfare department are working towards upgrading over 50 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) this year. Recently in the state budget, it was announced that upgradation of over 250 PHCs and in the first phase 50 PHCS are chosen to be upgraded.

Back in the year 2021, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar had announced the conversion of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to model centres. He had stated that there are 2,380 PHCs in the state, one per 30,000 population. The project was aimed to construct new PHCs to fill the gap and upgrade the existing ones.

The building would include facilities like a yoga and wellness centre, a well-equipped laboratory to facilitate basic blood tests, radiology centre with X-ray unit, good quality camera and TVs to facilitate expert doctor consultation through tele-medicine.

However, according to government officials, the project has been scrapped and now the focus is on upgrading 250 PHC into Community Health Centres (CHCs). Over 50 PHCs are chosen to be upgraded this year.

Health Commissioner Randeep D said, "We will be upgrading 100 PHCs to CHCs. Currently there are over 205 CHCs and the rest as well will now become CHCs. This is going to be done in 100 aspirational taluks identified by the planning department. They have more specialists and it can help many patients. The upgradation will be taken up phase wise, 50 this year and the other 50 next year. This project will help the IMR and MMR efforts, which will help in bringing down the mortality both for mother and children." The current bed capacity of PHCs is six, once it gets converted to CHC, the bed capacity will increase. "While the place will be bigger, have more specialists like anesthetists, gynecologists and others. The bed capacity will also increase from six to more. The planning commission has identified 50 places and based on that it will upgraded in the taluks," he said.

The state government in its 2022 budget has added many health facilities, like providing well equipped facilities at taluk level, wherein seven taluk hospitals will be upgraded to 100 bedded hospitals. Even 300 women health centres will be upgraded under National Health Mission and other health projects.

Vaccine recipents of the under-18 age group gather at a PHC in Bengaluru (file pic)

> **Upgrade will be done in 100 aspirational taluks identified by the planning department. They have more specialists to help many patients**
> –Randeep D, health commissioner

Conductor turns cop, exposes illegal trade

An alert conductor played a cop's role by recovering unaccounted laptops in the city.

On Tuesday, Manjunath BC was on duty as conductor in an inter-state KSRTC bus ferrying passengers between Bengaluru and Vellore. KSRTC officials said that the bus left from MCTC bus stand at 2.30 pm. A passenger with a bag boarded at the Lalbagh bus stop purchased a ticket from Benglauru to Ambur.

Manjunath told reporters, "A passenger was sitting in the last seat of the bus and was found suspicious. I proceeded to inspect the passenger's luggage as KSRTC has banned carrying any illegal items as per the directives of the government. However, the passenger objected to checking the bag. By then, the bus stopped at Madiwala and when I was trying to probe him further, the passenger got down from the bus and escaped in the rush of other passengers. Though I tried to catch him, he escaped. I later checked the passenger's bag and found that there were seven laptops and seven mobiles of different make."

KSRTC officials said that the conductor then returned these items to the depot. The Divisional Controller informed Basavanagudi Police Station and the Inspector arrived at the Divisional Office and in front of Manjunath these have been handed over to police for further action.

200 optimal EV charging points

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

India's FAME scheme to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles.

The GUI tool takes parameters such as resource constraints, grid impact and people's demands into consideration to generate the location data. It also gives insights into the impact of various charging station attributes such as charging time, charging cost, waiting time and accessibility on the choice of location.

"A list of all the potential locations, which included shopping malls and other major commercial centres, office areas, petrol stations and such in the city was developed. This list was then updated based on the origin and destination points from the travel patterns. Outputs from behavioural and travel surveys were then fed as inputs to the optimisation model, which then churned out the list of optimal locations," Dr Verma told BM.

Although Karnataka was the first state in India to introduce an electric vehicle policy, the transformation towards electric mobility in the state has been relatively slow.

According to the IISc researchers, organisations such as BESCOM and BBMP, that have long been planning to help increase the adoption rate of EVs, can benefit from the tool.

"The major roadblock to the transformation towards EVs is the lack of charging infrastructure. This tool will help stakeholders like BESCOM to better plan for the infrastructural requirements, thereby facilitating their adoption and leading to a more sustainable transportation system in Bengaluru. All this can be achieved while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the air quality," added Dr Verma.

Researchers stressed the project has the potential to save critical government resources that can be otherwise allocated to provide quality public services such as health, water and education.

"The tool has the potential to reduce premature mortality, health conditions caused by poor air quality alongside improving the overall health and wellbeing of citizens. The spiking oil prices affect not only the vehicle owners, but its worst economic impacts are on the farmers and poorest citizens in the country," added Dr Verma.

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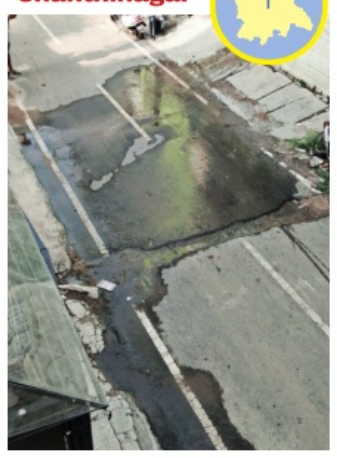
Clear the walls
Jayamahal

People continue flouting the anti-poster rules and the whole Ward 63 (Jayamahal) is filled with political and other types of flexes.

Fatal threat
Sanjay Nagar

Even after a recent tragedy, authorities have not learnt a lesson. Wires are still dangling near Sanjay Nagar police station and the authorities should step up and take action before an untoward incident repeats.

Stinky hood
Shanthinagar



A leakage from an untenanted house emanating foul smell has been bothering residents of 4th Cross, Church Road in Shanthinagar, since one month. All our pleas are falling on deaf ears and blind eyes.

Dark clouds gather, B'luru cools down

Weatherman says rain likely to persist for the next two days

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Rain water collects inside houses in JP Nagar on Wednesday

Cool days seems to be back in the city as dark clouds hovered in the skies with lightning and thunderstorms in the backdrop. It was definitely a welcome break from the scorching sun as the temperature dipped by 2-3 degree Celsius than the past few days. The weatherman says that these cloudy and rainy days can continue for the next two days, though it will largely depend on the weather circulation currently active in Bay of Bengal.

G Srinivasa Reddy (Consultant at Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority) told BM, "A weather system is currently active in the south of Andamans in the Bay of Bengal. We are closely observing the development as by Thursday, it may turn into a well-marked low pressure area. Then, we need to see whether it will continue to intensify into a cyclone or will downgrade. As of now, the situation may head towards Odisha. We will get to know the clear picture in a day or two."

He said that besides the low pressure area, there was a trough running from Vidarbha to Tamil Nadu. As a result, of these two weather situations, there could be rainfall in the city for a day or two. Then, the rainfall may subside and the hot weather may increase during the day. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted partly cloudy sky in the morning, becoming generally cloudy sky towards evening or night in Bengaluru. There might be rain or thundershowers and maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 34 and 21 degree Celsius, respectively.

Suraj Kumar, a student, said, "These days, Bengaluru weather is one of the hotly debated topics on social media. Many were recalling how the city's weather was currently reflecting the 'old phenomenon'. Earlier, whenever the city's temperature increased for a few days, there was immediate relief in terms of rainfall. For the last week or so, there were consistent hot days in the city. The last few days have changed everything as the city's temperature is back to being cool."

Meanwhile, Reddy said that there was a possibility of good monsoon in the State as IMD has predicted a normal one this year. The onset of monsoon in the State will be on June 5 provided the monsoon keeps the June 1 date with the Kerala coast. The monsoon clouds are to cover Bengaluru in a day or two once it enters the State. As of now, monsoon is expected in the first week of June though it is too early to predict as the south west monsoon has missed its actual date with delayed arrival.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted partly cloudy sky in the morning hours becoming generally cloudy sky towards evening/night in Bengaluru with rain or thundershowers and maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 34 and 21 Degree Celsius respectively. However, the weather is not so pleasant in northern parts of Karnataka.

Many districts in northern Karnataka were reeling under severe hot weather with Kalaburagi recording the highest maximum temperature of 42.3 degree Celsius.

Man tracks down thieves & brings back what was his

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A 38-year-old plucky man managed to confront those who stole his scooter and even retrieve the stolen vehicle. After tracking down the vehicle and the thieves' whereabouts along with his friend, he returned to file a complaint with the police. A case of theft and assault has been registered against the two culprits.

According to the police, the incident happened on Sunday 9.30 pm when Mani Chinnaraj, a private company employee and a resident of Kadusonnapanahalli village in Bidarahalli, had gone to a bar with one of his friends.

He had parked his scooter near a bar in Hosuru Bande village, and had gone in with his friend.

Around 9.30 pm, the duo came out and saw that the scooter had gone missing. He then requested the bar staff to show them the CCTV footage and found that two men were stealing the bike.

They asked the bar staff if they could take screenshots of the CCTV camera footage on their phones. They collected various angles of photographs of both the culprits.

Mani then circulated the pictures in his groups in his area — Kadusonnappanahalli village in Bidarahalli Hobli where a few of his friends identified the culprits and messaged him back identifying the two as Madhu V and Ashok of Kannuru village in Bidarahalli.

Mani and his friend wasted no time. They hailed an autorickshaw and went to Kannuru village to Madhu's house. As luck would have it, Mani found his bike parked in front of the house. Mani then confronted Madhu and asked him why he had stolen his bike.

Madhu got angry and is said to have begun abusing and warning Mani and his friend to stop the fight and leave from their village.

Mani rained punches on Madhu and his neighbour Ashok too joined in the quarrel.

Meanwhile, Madhu's father came out of the house and requested Mani to take away his scooter and leave from there. Mani took his scooter and the next day approached the Bagalur police and handed the scooter there.

He then furnished all the evidence what he had gathered and filed a complaint of theft and assault against both Madhu and Ashok.

Based on his complaint, the police have registered an FIR booking the accused under IPC sections 379 - theft and 323 and 324 - assault using dangerous weapons. The cops are investigating further.

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Understanding urban pollinators

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lesser-known, non-aggressive, solitary bees for the study.

A large number of bee species exist in the urban setting contrary to the belief that rural areas being more conducive to their survival, research has found. "The city has plentiful horticultural plants and resources for the survival of bees; what is missing is nesting spaces, due to the large-scale concretisation. This is why we introduced the concept of bee hotels. It will aid in conservation, awareness and research," said Chethana V Casiker, senior research associate at ATREE.

ATREE will be distributing bee hotels to citizens across Bengaluru, and has invited citizens to participate in the study. The organisation has received 93 responses so far.

"Each bee hotel contains three segments to cater to different bees — premade cavities in bamboo for bamboo-nesting bees and soil for soil-nesting bees. These can be placed in the garden, balcony, terrace or any other well-lit open space. The structures will be home-delivered to citizens and they can participate in the study through an app. The app allows participants to learn about bee biodiversity as well as record their observations. Participants will be asked to record their observations under pointers like presence or absence of bees, timelines of bee activity, signs of bee occupancy, interaction with other organisms, etc. Bee activity will vary seasonally; for example, there will be more activity during summer and reduced activity during monsoon," added Casiker.

"It's a user-friendly platform that allows participants to note their observations under the three segments in the bee hotels. It also has photographs of common bees that will help participating citizens identify different species. The study will be conducted for at least a three-year period and participants will have the option to opt-out at any stage," added Devy.

Researchers chose this research methodology to get spatially spread-out data on bees as well as create awareness among citizens. The study will also help them in understanding how bees cope in urban spaces, how they are affected by landscape factors, and which areas are most and least conducive to the pollinators' survival.

While a lot of research has been conducted in the rural setting, this is one of the first city-scale studies. "People have a growing interest in birds; we wanted to draw their attention to bees as well. Most people only associate bees with honey alone and are not aware that they are pollinators. Almost three-fourths of the food resources are dependent on pollinators. Pollinator-dependent foods are found to be more nutritious," added Devy.

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I Geetha S, W/o. Arjun R/a # 1090, 14th cross pipeline, Weavers Colony, Srinagar Bangalore-560050. I have changed my daughter name from Grisha Arjun to SHONITHA. Vide affidavit dt: 02/05/2022. Sworn before Notary : Mahesha J. J.

I, AALIA SIKANDER W/o Prabhu R/at No.180, 4th Cross, Kanakadasa Layout, Lingarajapura, OK Bakery, Bangalore have changed my name to ARCHANA N PRABHU vide affidavit dated: 4/5/2022 Before Notary M.K.Devaki Bangalore.

I, Naveena Saragalli Krishnoji Rao R/o No.99, 8th Cross, Raghavendra Colony, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru 560097 have changed my name to NAVEEN SARAGALLI KRISHNOJI RAO affidavit Dt. 09.04/2022 notary N.Nagappa, B'luru.

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Shots for kids falling short

Just 4% of kids eligible in 12-14 group have got 2nd covid vaccine shot

Garima Prasher
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Covid vaccination for children aged 12 to 14 years began on March 16, but BBMP's health department data suggests that only 4% of the eligible kids in the city have received the second dose. The numbers also show that only 58% of the children have received their first dose.

These numbers are way short of the civic body's target for the second dose of vaccination. BBMP had set a target of 2.82 lakh children in the age group but has administered both doses only to little over 13,000 individuals. While the officials have been attributing the slow pace of vaccination to shot-shy parents and the ongoing summer vacations, school associations say the civic body has failed in spreading awareness about the drive.

According to D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, while the fourth wave of the pandemic looms large, BBMP has failed to meet its target by a big margin. "While the numbers have started increasing again in many cities and states, only 4% of children aged 12 to 14 years fully vaccinated is worrisome. The civic body should look at a multi-pronged approach involving all the stakeholders to create awareness about the drive. Vaccine is the best step forward toward reducing the spread of the pandemic," said Kumar.

The association also says that the Supreme Court's latest ruling that no individual can be forced to take any vaccination, will bring down the pace of vaccination further. "With this ruling, there will be more reluctance among the parents towards the vaccine. The schools have not opened yet and while we are assuming that most of them will go for the vaccination, the situation will be clear only after children are back on campuses. The highest number of kids are in the state board schools. We hope a majority of the parents will get their kids jabbed, irrespective of this ruling," said Kumar.

A child in the age group of 12-14 years get vaccinated against covid in the city

> **Also, if hotels and airlines can put a condition on vaccination, why can't schools be allowed to do the same?** – Founder of a school

Schools say they should be allowed to make vaccination compulsory and the government should give guidelines to enable vaccination of all the children on campuses. "The Supreme Court has not stopped indirect enforcement. Also, if hotels and airlines can put a condition on vaccination, why can't schools do the same? The government should allow the schools to make vaccination compulsory and should give guidelines to enable this," said the founder of a city-based CBSE school.

Experts push for mask rule in closed spaces

Health experts have suggested that people must wear masks in closed spaces. Backed by a latest study which says that the Covid virus remains airborne for a while in closed spaces, the experts say that many are casual about wearing masks or don't bother to wear masks in closed spaces. The State Government has been recommending that masks are mandatory especially in closed areas.

A new collaborative study by scientists from CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad and CSIR IMTech Chandigarh has confirmed the airborne transmission of Covid was published by the Journal of Aerosol Science recently. Researchers analysed the Covid genome from air samples collected from different areas occupied by covid patients in hospitals, closed rooms and houses of home quarantined patients. They found that the virus could be frequently detected in air around covid patients. The positivity rate increased with the number of patients present in the premises.

CCMB scientists found the virus in ICU as well as non-ICU sections of hospitals suggesting that patients shed the virus in air irrespective of the severity of infections.

The study also found viable covid in air that could infect living cells and the virus could spread over a long distance.

Scientists suggested wearing masks to avoid spread of the infection. According to scientists involved in the study, the results showed that covid can stay in air for some time in the absence of ventilation in closed spaces. The positivity rate of finding the virus in the air was 75% when two or more covid patients were in a room in contrast to 15.8% when one or no covid patient had occupied the room. Scientists say that air surveillance was a useful means to predict the infection potential of spaces like classrooms, meeting halls. This can help refine strategies to control the spread of infections. —BMB

142 covid cases in Bengaluru

Covid tally increased a bit on Wednesday with the State reporting 148 new cases and zero casualties. Of this, Benglauru's share was 142. Around 25 districts had 0 covid cases.

Who gets a big chunk of funds?

BJP legislators get a bigger share of funds under Nagarothana scheme

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
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With an eye on the upcoming BBMP elections, BJP legislators in the city have been able to extract a larger pie from the 'Mukyamantrigala Amrutha Nagarothana' scheme.

Under this scheme, a sum of Rs 6,000 crore has been earmarked for infrastructure development of the city. Of this, the constituencies represented by BJP legislators have got a lion's share.

Statistics show that Rs 2,718 crore has been earmarked for the constituencies represented by BJP legislators. Mahadevapura (MLA Arvind Limbavali) and RR Nagar (Horticulture Minister Munirathna) constituencies have been allocated Rs 208 crore each. This is the highest share given to any constituency. Bommanahalli (Satish Reddy) and KR Puram (Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj) have got Rs 207 crore; Bengaluru South (M Krishnappa) Rs 206 crore; Yeshwanthpur (Cooperation Minister ST Somashekar) Rs 202 crore; Govindarajanagar (Housing Minister V Somanna) and Padmanabhanagar (Revenue Minister R Ashoka) got Rs 200 crore each. Yelahanka (BDA Chairman SR Vishwanath) got Rs 175 crore; Mahalakshmi Layout (Excise Minister Gopalaiah) and Malleswaram (Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan) Rs 170 crore each; CV Raman Nagar (S Raghu); Rajajinagar (S Suresh Kumar) Rs 150 crore each; Chickpet (Uday Garudachar) Rs 140 crore and for Basavanagudi (L Ravi Subramanya) Rs 125 crore has been allocated.

The other constituencies have got a raw deal. Hebbal (Byrathi Suresh) Rs 90 crore; BTM Layout (Ramalinga Reddy); Chamarajpet (BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan); Gandhinagar (Dinesh Gundurao) and Sarvagnanagar (KJ George) have been allocated Rs 80 crore each. Byatarayanapura (Krishna Byre Gowda) Rs 75 crore; Pulakeshinagar (Akhanda Srinivasamurthy) and Shantinagar (NA Haris) Rs 70 crore each; Jayanagar (Soumya Reddy); Vijayanagar (M Krishnappa) Rs 60 crore each. The least grant has gone to Anekal (B Shivanna) and the maximum grant among the opposition parties is to T Dasarahalli (R Manjunath) Rs 110 crore.

> **Congress leaders allege it is a BJP ploy to extract more seats when the BBMP elections are finally conducted**

Even the Congress legislators who had shifted their allegiance to the saffron party (like Somashekar, Basavaraj and Munirathna) have been able to extract a larger pie for their constituencies. A Congress leader who didn't want to be named said, "It is a clear ploy by the BJP government to get maximum seats when BBMP elections are announced. In many constituencies represented by non-BJP MLAs, the local BJP leaders are alleging that the developmental work have taken a back seat because of the MLA. But, the fact is that the MLAs are in a helpless situation facing the wrath of the public due to lack of funds. These pressure tactics may work in the elections and the saffron party hopes that this will tilt the election results in their favour. We demand fair allocation of funds depending on the state of infrastructure."

Sources in the government argued that most of the BJP legislators had been elected in those constituencies which were majorly outskirts and needed a lot of development and hence higher allocation. However, opposition leaders argue that some of the CBD MLAs have got a higher share than the Congress MLA constituencies. The Amrita Nagarottana scheme was announced by the CM to improve the city's infrastructure on August 15, 2021.

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EMIs to rise as RBI hikes repo rate by 40 bps

CRR hiked by 50 bps, which means banks will have less to loan to consumers

#MUMBAI

Home, auto and other loan EMIs are likely to increase after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hiked its key interest rate by 40 bps in a surprise move on Wednesday in an effort to tame inflation that has remained stubbornly above target in recent months. The increase in repo rate - the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks - to 4.40 per cent from a record low of 4 per cent is the first since August 2018 as well as the first instance of the RBI Governor-headed monetary policy committee (MPC) holding an unscheduled meeting for raising interest rates.

The RBI also hike the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.5 per cent, which will now require banks to park more money with the central bank and leave them with less to loan to consumers. This would drain Rs 87,000 crore of liquidity from the banking system, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in a video address announcing the rate hike decision.

He, however, did not mention anything about the reverse repo rate and hence it remains the same at 3.35 per cent.

The standing deposit facility rate is now at 4.15 per cent while the marginal standing facility rate and bank rate stand at 4.65 per cent. The MPC retained its accommodative monetary policy stance - meaning it can cut interest rates to support growth - at a time when globally inflation is rising alarmingly.

Persistent inflation pressures are becoming more acute, particularly on food, Das said, adding that there is a risk if prices stay at this level for "too long" and expectations become unanchored.

"Inflation must be tamed in order to keep the Indian economy resolute on its course to sustained and inclusive growth," he said.

Increases in fuel and food prices, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and sustained pandemic-related supply chain disruptions, have been above the RBI comfort zone of 2-6 per cent for three months in a row. Headline inflation in March rose to a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent and it may be above the target band in April too.

The MPC is scheduled to meet on June 8 and analysts expect it to again raise the repo rate by at least 25 bps. "The MPC judged that the inflation outlook warrants an appropriate and timely response through resolute and calibrated steps to ensure that second-round effects of supply-side shocks on the economy are contained and long-term inflation expectations are kept firmly anchored," Das said.

The governor, however, added that the monetary stance remains accommodative and actions will remain calibrated. **-PTI**

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das delivers a statement on Wednesday

Investor wealth tumbles ₹6.27L cr as markets face heavy drubbing

#NEW DELHI

Investors became poorer by over Rs 6.27 lakh crore on Wednesday as markets crashed after the RBI hiked the policy rate by 40 bps in a surprise move.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 1,306.96 points or 2.29 per cent to settle at 55,669.03. During the day, it plummeted 1,474.39 points or 2.58 per cent to 55,501.60.

In tandem with the slump in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tumbled Rs 6,27,359.72 crore to stand at Rs 2,59,60,852.44 crore.

"RBI surprised the markets with a 40 bps hike in repo rate and a 50 bps CRR hike, in an off-cycle meet by the MPC on Wednesday. The markets have obviously been taken by surprise," said Unmesh Kulkarni, Managing Director Senior Advisor, Julius Baer India.

Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said, "Ahead of the Fed meeting in the US, the Reserve Bank has created a stir in the Indian markets by suddenly increasing interest rates. Behind this, we saw a sudden drop in the benchmark indices." Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, Dr Reddy's and Maruti were the prominent laggards from the Sensex pack.

In contrast, PowerGrid, NTPC and Kotak Mahindra Bank closed in the green.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge tumbled 2.63 per cent and smallcap index declined 2.11 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE consumer durables fell the most by 3.88 per cent, followed by realty (3.31 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (3.01 per cent), healthcare (2.92 per cent) and telecom (2.73 per cent).

The rupee appreciated by 8 paise to settle at 76.40 against the US dollar on Wednesday following RBI's surprise rate hike ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 76.46 against the US dollar. It moved in the range of 76.17 to 76.58 during the session.

The rupee finally closed at 76.40, registering a rise of 8 paise over its previous close. **-PTI**

RBI action double whammy for markets: Analysts

#MUMBAI

RBI's repo rate hike accompanied with an increase in the cash reserve ratio was a "double whammy" for the markets, and more such tightening moves can be expected from the central bank, analysts said on Wednesday.

Multiple watchers said the six-member Monetary Policy Committee will hike the repo rate by a further 0.50 per cent.

Referring to the over 2 per cent correction in the benchmark indices, Abhishek Goenka, chief executive of IFA Global, said there was a "bloodbath" in equities because of the "double whammy" delivered by Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Salesmen wait for customers at a cloth market in Mumbai

"The market was expecting a rate hike by RBI but in a slower pace," he added, pointing to the discomfort on inflation as a key factor influencing the move.

Rahul Bajoria, Chief India Economist at British brokerage Barclays, said he expects the RBI to go for at least a 0.50 per cent hike at the next scheduled meeting in early June to 4.90 per cent, and take a breather only when it touches 5.15 per cent.

"Looking ahead, given the hawkish rhetoric and high likelihood of an elevated inflation print for April, the RBI will be front-loading further hikes," he noted.

Sujan Hajra, Chief Economist at Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said he expects an immediate increase in money market rates and some transmission in the long-term bond market as well.

"The impact on the equity market is likely to be negative in the short-term," he added. **-PTI**

LIC IPO: Overall subscription at 67% on day 1

#NEW DELHI

LIC's public offer, the country's biggest-ever IPO, saw the policyholders' portion being oversubscribed on the first day itself on Wednesday, though overall subscription stood at 67 per cent.

The government aims to generate about Rs 21,000 crore by selling 3.5 per cent stake in the insurance behemoth.

LIC's initial public offering (IPO), open for retail and institutional investors, is set to close on May 9. The issue period also includes bidding on Saturday, May 7.

The portion reserved for policyholders was subscribed 1.9 times, while that for employees was fully subscribed during the first day itself, as per data available on the BSE.

KAUSHIK JN

LIC employees protest against the IPO plan, in front of Bengaluru's JC Road branch, on Wednesday

LIC has fixed the price band at Rs 902-949 per equity share for the issue. The offer includes a reservation for eligible employees and policyholders. The retail investors and eligible employees will get a discount of Rs 45 per equity share, while policyholders will get a discount of Rs 60.

However, demand from qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) and non-institutional investors was muted. The non-institutional investors' portion was subscribed 27 per cent while QIBs' portion was slightly higher at 33 per cent.

Retail Individual Investor category picked up nearly 60 per cent of the 6.9 crore shares set aside for this segment.

The offer received bids for 10,86,45,360 shares against the offered 16,20,78,067 equity shares (excluding shares offered to anchor investors), as per data available on the bourses at 7 pm.

The share sale is through an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 22.13 crore equity shares. The shares are likely to be listed on May 17.

LIC has already mopped up a little over Rs 5,627 crore from anchor investors led primarily by domestic institutions. Anchor Investors (AIs) portion (5,92,96,853 equity shares) was subscribed at Rs 949 per equity share. **PTI**

Salty hair care

This ingredient in hair sprays boosts volume by absorbing excess sebum

Ria Bhatia
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

As individuals, we all have our favourite aspects and interest areas when it comes to our beauty routines. I personally swear by all things skincare. However, if you're addicted to your hair care and hairstyling stash in particular, this one's for you. Assuming you're addicted to all things hair, there has to be at least one sea salt spray in your kitty. Right? Well, a sea salt infusion works very well to style your hair – especially to achieve that summer-appropriate beachy, crispy waves, and that's something one and all can vouch for. While I love spritzing sea salt sprays copiously, it got me wondering about what in this spray exactly gives my hair that off-duty model-like hair. So, I reached out to celebrity hairstylist Aanchal Morwani, who gave me a swift tour of the why, what and how of sea salt sprays. Here's what she said.

We're all a sucker for that salty texture that such a spray bestows on our mane. And, while we're surviving the scorching heat waves, one can't deny that this is the season to flaunt 'em beachy tresses. "Sea salt is that ingredient that boosts volume by absorbing excess sebum, plus texturises hair by opening the hair cuticle to plump it. Hence, used in many texturising sprays," explained Morwani as she threw some light on why sea salt is seen in a plethora of hairstyling products. Further, she gives us an understanding of how it works, "It plumps and expands the hair fibre, giving the appearance of thicker, more voluminous hair. The salt in the product removes moisture from the hair, which adds volume and texture, leaving hair dehydrated which gives you that 'beach waves' feel."

Additionally, a sea salt spray successfully works its magic on all hair types. Morwani confirms the same, as she dissects the benefits for each hair type, "For thick hair it adds texture and body. Fine hair types can benefit from using salt spray as a pre-styler to add texture, body and hold to support voluminous hair styles. Lastly, limp or lacklustre hair is also boosted thanks to the oil-absorbing properties of salt." However, just like any other thing in the world, going overboard with it is a no-no, even if you have to sacrifice that beachy messy look on days. Morwani tells us why, "As the damp hair dries, the salt pulls out excess water and oils, leaving the hair textured. But, sea salt spray can dehydrate your hair (as salt will do to your skin). Hence, overuse of sea salt spray can make the hair feel dry and brittle, so it's not recommended to use the product every day."

Finally, Morwani details down the steps to use a sea salt spray at home correctly:

Start with damp hair.
Allow your wet hair to air dry until it's just damp but not soaking-wet. Comb through your damp hair to remove any knots and tangles.

Shake the spray and spray away!

Hot hair tip: For an easy volume boost that won't dehydrate your strands, use dry shampoo on your roots and sea salt spray everywhere else.

Spray it evenly all over.
Style it by diffuse-drying to create effortless beach waves.

You don't always have to use sea salt spray on damp hair. You can use it on dry hair too to create that gritty look.

You can mix it with a leave-in cream or serum. This will give you the messy beach waves you're looking for without stripping away too much moisture and shine.

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My husband left me about six months ago for another woman. I was heartbroken at the time and it's taken a lot to pick up the pieces of my life. Last week he got in touch to say he's leaving her and wants to come home to me and our two kids. I want to say yes because I've missed him so much and still love him, but I'm worried he'll do it again and I'm still hurt and devastated by what he did. I haven't told anyone else, not even my family, because I know they wouldn't approve of me taking him back. What do you think? Am I crazy to agree to it?

COLEEN SAYS

I think it's crazy to agree to it instantly. If he wants to come home and you want him to come home, then take it slowly.

You could see each other away from the house and then it could progress to him staying over the odd night. I think it's a mistake to let him just waltz back in because, yes, initially, there might be a honeymoon period, but your issues and insecurities will still be there and you need to confront them and start to work through them slowly.

If you avoid talking about what happened, every time his phone rings or he's home late from work, you're going to worry.

You also have to consider the kids – you don't want him to move in, only for him to move back out three weeks later.

You've been very hurt and it's a big thing that's happened – he was with this other woman for six months and they lived together too. I'd suggest counselling, where there are boundaries and he has to listen to you. But don't not try because of other people. Naturally they'll be worried because they've seen the devastation he left behind, but they don't know him or love him like you do, and it's your life.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

MIRRORLIGHTS

No more sibling rivalry

The birth of a second child can be both thrilling and overwhelming for parents, but they need to keep an eye on the relationship between the siblings from the very beginning. While jealousy, competitiveness, and not sharing toys and beds may seem trivial, they are serious issues in childhood. Sibling rivalry is a source of concern for almost all parents of two or more children. It starts right after the birth of the second child and lasts through childhood, causing parents a lot of stress and frustration.

"Sibling rivalry is hard to hear for any parent. If the usual yelling, fighting over toys, the television remote, and pushing is not bad enough, then the infringement on privacy, me time, and space is another reason for sibling trouble," explains Dr Aarti Bakshi, who suggests many ways that have worked wonderfully in resolving sibling conflict:

A calmer mind conjures the best solutions. A relaxed parent is a better listener too. Stay calm during the fights and listen to both of them before you arrive at a solution. Life gets busy all the time and it's easy to get caught up in everyday tasks. A family night is a perfect opportunity to have fun together and connect. Create fun activities that the siblings can team up and perform.

Keep all technology away and listen to your kids attentively. Avoid making hypotheses about another's thoughts and feelings. Do not try to mind read and finish sentences for each other, instead hear them out fully.

To avoid future conflicts, view disagreement as an opportunity to teach your children how to solve future difficulties. Demonstrate how they might resolve a similar situation by compromise, sharing, or a more positive, acceptable method.

Avoid making comparisons between your children, favouring one over the other, or promoting rivalry between them.

Avoid making the disagreement between sibling's public if it culminates in the necessity for punishment. This might be humiliating for a child in front of his or her sibling.

—Femina

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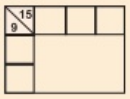
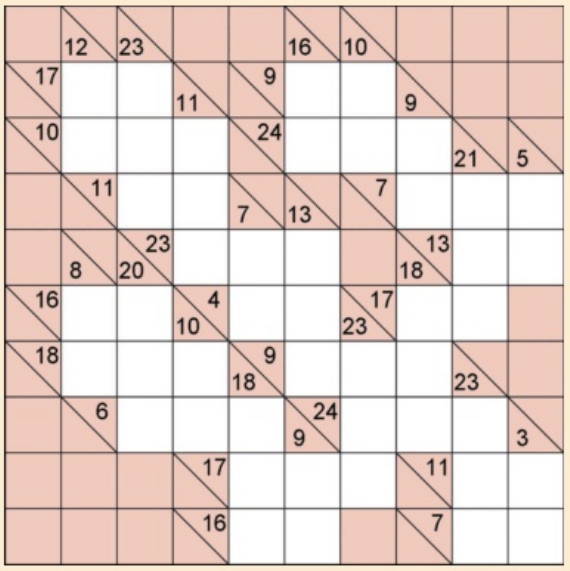
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

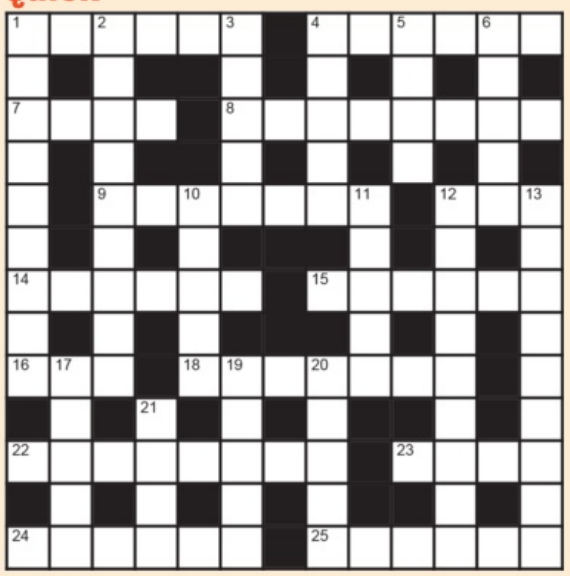
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Floor covering (6)
4 Falls near Rajiv Gandhi National Park (6)
7 Furry dog Lhasa ____ (4)
8 City in Saurashtra (8)
9 Rock group helpers (7)
12 Over in verse (3)
14 Wizard of Menlo Park (6)
15 Short-sighted (6)
16 French article (3)
18 First book of the Bible (7)
22 Reprove (8)
23 Tiny particle (4)
24 Junkie (6)
25 Shut (6)

DOWN

1 Mollusc home? (9)
2 Holds back (9)
3 Faint-hearted (5)
4 Tropical fibre (5)
5 Mountain range (4)
6 Hesitate (5)
10 Lengthwise, onward or together (5)
11 Eyelid inflammations (5)
12 Antonyms (9)
13 Redeemed, saved or bought; converted (9)
17 Finished (5)
19 Survive (5)
20 Set of moral principles (5)
21 Hindu ascetic (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS T

FRGAH ORG NJXXGF VHWH-WSHV FRH TJAF JVH NGX-EHWXHE FG VHTHJF MF.

Linemaro

Excuse me, would you please scratch my back? My arms are way too muscular for me to reach

Mindchow

Most men are born asleep, live asleep and die asleep

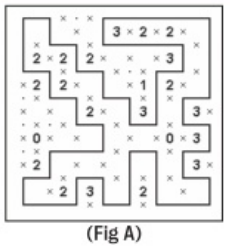
Joke of the day

This girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore

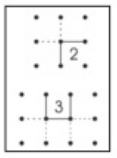
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

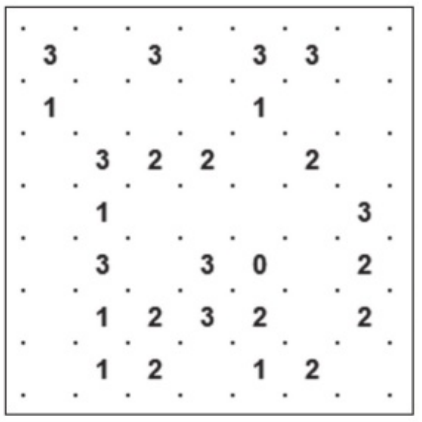


(Fig B) Not Allowed

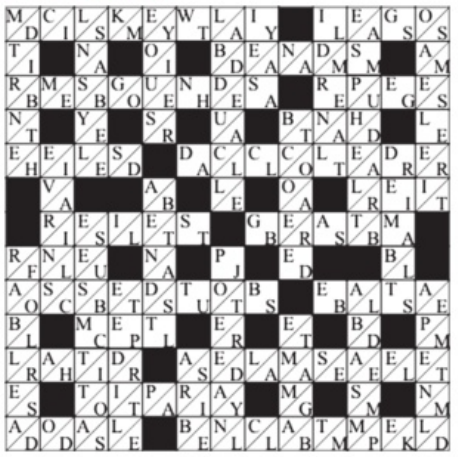
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



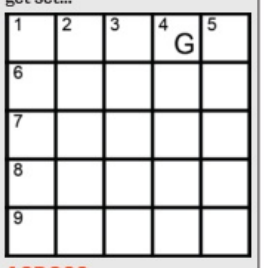
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Gulps; 6 Aimer;
7 Bum ie; 8 Pells;
9 Smalt

DOWN

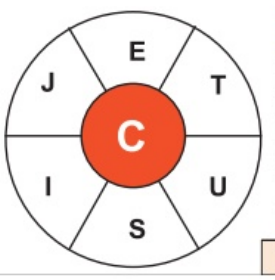
1 Prims; 2 A limp;
3 Blue M; 4 Lug at;
5 Seles

Mensapuzzle

How can you make this addition correct?

11
66
88
96
294

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

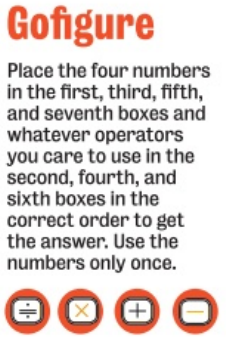
SudokuChallenge

	4			2				
		7					1	
	5		3			4		9
	2	3				6		
	1		5		4		9	
		9				7	5	
9		1			8		6	
	7					9		
				7			4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

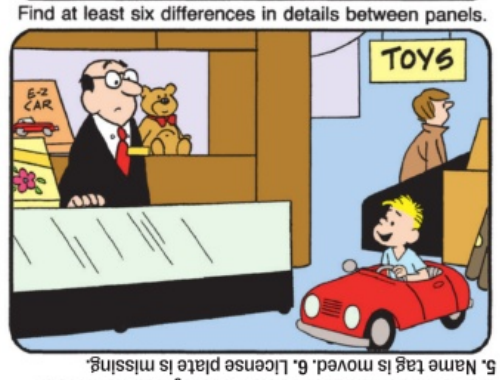
Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



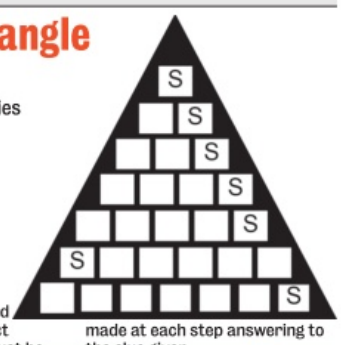
Differences: 1. Car door is different. 2. Rear tire is moved. 3. Side mirror is added to car. 4. Teddy bear is moved. 5. Name tag is moved. 6. License plate is missing.

Riddler

I am higher without a head. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 You and me
3 Logie of West Indies
4 Hairpieces
5 Medicines
6 Soared up
7 Labours



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

HOW COME STARS DON'T SHINE IN THE DAYTIME?
THAT'S EASY, POKEY
2-19
THEY TURN THEM OFF WHILE THE SUN IS SHINING TO CONSERVE ENERGY
I'LL BET I FLUNK SCIENCE AGAIN THIS YEAR

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

SNOWFLAKE IN A BAR:
DO YOU MIND IF SOME OF MY FRIENDS JOIN US?
NOT AT ALL
OK, GUYS! COME ON OVER!
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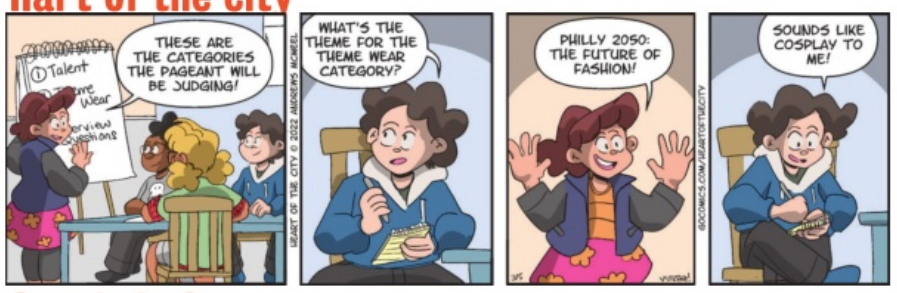
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


Talent
Swimwear
Interview Questions
THESE ARE THE CATEGORIES THE PAGEANT WILL BE JUDGING!
WHAT'S THE THEME FOR THE THEME WEAR CATEGORY?
PHILLY 2050: THE FUTURE OF FASHION!
SOUNDS LIKE COSPLAY TO ME!
HART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I KNOW THAT EACH OF YOU HAS REASONS FOR MISSING OUR NEWSPAPER, THE CENTERVILLE SENTINEL!
CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2-26
I MISS THE COVERAGE OF CITY HALL!
I MISS THE LOCAL SPORTS COVERAGE!
I MISS THE RECIPES!
I MISS THE ARTS AND LIFE SECTION!
I MISS THE 'JUMBLE'!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you will be blessed by the moon; your destiny is likely be with you. Today, you may be more energetic and focused in your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your colleagues may help you. You are likely to go for short work-related trips. Some good news may come from your sibling.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy in family matters. You may take some important decision on the domestic front. You should avoid arguments in personal life matters. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. By late evening, things may be under control. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in the business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, messy situations will now be under control. You may feel peace in your mind. You may be able to make a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may increase your financial health. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking; it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their future. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may have health issues; last night's sleeplessness may make you mentally tired. You may not focus in your day-to-day work. You may feel laziness, which may affect your commitments. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. You are also advised to avoid spending money on worthless stuff.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy in social get-togethers; you may also meet some old friends; your network might be strong, which may give you benefits in near future on the work front. Natives related to export and import, glamour, artefacts may perform better. Students are likely to perform better today in terms of study. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may have good support from your family members. You may also have some expansion in your family business during these days which will increase the social status of your family. You may also plan to expand your family in terms of a child which may improve bonding between family members. Students may apply for some scholarships for their higher studies.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be more spiritual; your destiny may be with you; you may expect some good gains in your past investments. Bonding with the boss is likely to be improved which may give you benefits in terms of promotions. You may also hear some good news from your sibling. You are advised to control your harsh speaking in love and personal life; it may affect your personal and love life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be a victim of sleeplessness which may make you lazy. You may also become careless; it may affect your inner strength negatively. You are likely to be nervous at work; which may affect your ongoing projects. You are advised to avoid make investments in dead stuff. You are advised to avoid spicy food; may expect bad digestive system. You should avoid rash driving.

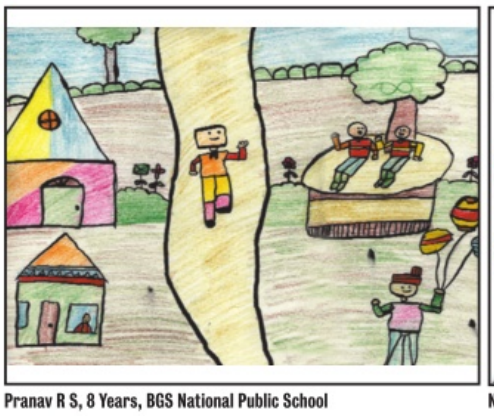
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you; you may have harmony in the domestic life; you may enjoy some romantic moments with the spouse. Your family may support you to take some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business or work.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, a positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good in the job; you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job-seeker are likely to get suitable job in their domain. Lovebirds may enjoy dating.

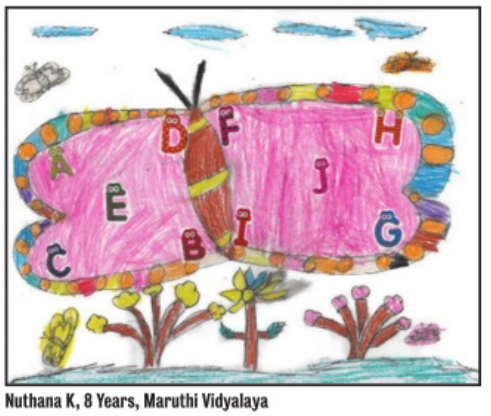
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may have fixed results. It is advised to not expect more from anyone around you; it may make you disappointed. Today you may have a self-exploration and self-analysis phase, which may allow filtering yourself. After the filtration process, you may feel confident and will be able to ready to accept challenges around you.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, dissatisfaction may make you upset. You may not be able to enjoy a single moment. You may have lack of patience which may affect your way of working. Silly mistakes may happen in your way of working. You may also visit some religious place for seeking peace. You are advised to practice meditation or yoga.

KIDZONE



Pranav R S, 8 Years, BGS National Public School



Nuthana K, 8 Years, Maruthi Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1/10+10+1/10+1/20 =
1/10×1/10+1/10+1/20 =
1/100×10/1+1/20 =
10/100+1/20 =
20/10 = 2

BULL'S EYE
cite, cute, juice, JUSTICE, sect

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
Turn the numbers upside down.
96
88
99
11
294

QUOTE UNCODE
Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

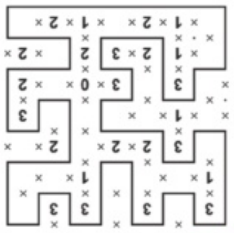
SUDOKU

2	8	5	6	7	9	1	4	3
6	7	4	1	5	3	9	2	8
9	3	1	2	4	8	5	6	7
4	6	9	8	3	2	7	5	1
7	1	8	5	6	4	3	9	2
5	2	3	7	9	1	6	8	4
8	5	2	3	1	6	4	7	9
3	9	7	4	8	5	2	1	6
1	4	6	9	2	7	8	3	5

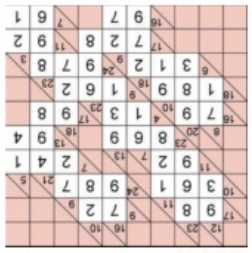
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Us, Gus, Rugs, Drugs, Surged, Drudges.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 × 7 + 1 + 4 = 19
Medium
4 + 8 + 4 + 1 = 17
Hard
6 − 4 − 2 + 3 = 3

LOOP



KAKURO



FAST FIVE

P	L	U	G	S
R	I	M	A	E
I	M	B	U	E
S	P	E	L	L
M	A	L	T	S

RIDDLER
A pillow

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 # Queen of romantic comedies
Meg Ryan, star of classics When Harry Met Sally and Sleepless in Seattle, will direct and star in upcoming movie What Happens Later

Her choice

Why Pooja had to let go of some big-ticket films

Pooja Hegde is currently on a roll with a line-up of some very interesting films in Bollywood and down south. The actress recently opened up about picking and choosing the films she wishes to be a part of.

In a new interview with a news portal, Pooja revealed that it was a conscious decision on her part to not do Hindi films.

The actor added that she didn't want to do them just for the sake of it or do roles that didn't matter to the storyline.

Pooja also revealed that she has been offered films opposite big stars but she didn't take it up because those characters didn't add any value to the script.

Elaborating further, Pooja added that after 'Mohenjo Daro', she waited and then did 'Housefull 4' after a big gap because the banner was good. According to her, that film was a stepping stone for her as it gave her 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali' with Salman Khan and 'Cirkus' with Ranveer Singh.

Spilling some beans about her career in south film industry, Pooja stated that her biggest boon is that the Telugu audience has accepted her as one of their own. The south has given her respect and that gave her strength to pick and choose the films she wants to do in Hindi. According to her, Bollywood can be a little unforgiving sometimes if you aren't from a film background or you don't have the push; it takes some time to get the kind of roles that you want to do.

"Actor didn't want to do films just for the sake of it or do roles that didn't matter to the storyline. She also turned down offers opposite big stars

—ETimes

Sam digs Simone's look

Samantha Ruth Prabhu took to her Instagram story to shower praise on 'Bridgerton' star Simone Ashley's red carpet look at Met Gala. Simone is a British actor born to Indian Tamil parents.

Samantha shared a video of Simone posing for the cameras at the Met Gala 2022 held in New York. She captioned it, 'Brown and beautiful (heart emoticon) #SimoneAshley #Bridgerton.'

The video was originally shared by Simone along with a few other pictures of her look. Sharing more about her black and golden costume, she wrote, "Met Gala 2022 @jeremyscott. It has been such a joy to wear your vision of everything gold and gilded, mysterious and modern. Thank you @moschino. Thank you to @rebeccacorbinmurray @peterluxhair @babskymakeup @_nicgoodwin For making this moment happen and always bringing a smile to my face."

Simone had garnered immense love and appreciation from the audience and the critics alike for her performance in the second season of 'Bridgerton' where she essayed the role of Kate Sharma. Samantha, on the other hand, will be next seen in Gunasekhar's mythological drama 'Shaakuntalam' and mystery 'Yashoda.'

—ETimes

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Deep end
Breathtaking underwater photoshoots by celebs. Check out some of the best clicks

Amber Heard to testify soon in defamation fight with Johnny Depp

Amber Heard, the ex-wife of Johnny Depp, may testify as early as Wednesday in front of a Virginia jury that is hearing the multi-million dollar defamation claims the actors filed against each other following their short-lived marriage.

On Tuesday, Depp's attorneys rested their case after arguing that Heard libeled the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star when she claimed she was a victim of domestic abuse.

Heard's side began their response by calling to the stand a psychologist who said the actress suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder due to physical and sexual abuse by Depp.

The 58-year-old Depp is suing Heard, 36, for $50 million. Heard has counter-sued for $100 million, saying Depp smeared her by calling her a liar. Over four days of sworn testimony, Depp said that "Aquaman" star Heard was the abuser in the relationship and once threw a vodka bottle that severed the top of his right middle finger. "At the end, I was broken," Depp said.

Heard has denied injuring Depp's finger and said she only threw things to escape when he was beating her.

In their cross-examination, Heard's attorneys introduced text messages and audio recordings of Depp using graphic language and insulting Heard.

"Let's drown her before we burn her," he said in one text message to actor Paul Bettany, adding "I will fuck her burnt corpse afterward to make sure she is dead."

The case hinges on a December 2018 opinion piece in the Washington Post. The article never mentioned Depp by name, but his lawyer told jurors it was clear Heard was referencing him.

—Reuters